

The Smith Williams House
Springfield Road
Mountainside, Union County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.H.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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N.J.
20 May 1951

The Smith Williams House
Springfield Road
Mountainside, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Fred Rumpf

Date of Erection: 1790 or earlier

Architect:

Builder: (Probable) Deacon Andrew Hetfield

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - frame
construction, siding and
shingles

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The exact date of this house and its builder are uncertain. It is thought that Deacon Andrew Hetfield erected the house about 1790 for his daughter Mary who married Smith Williams. The Deacon was a man of means and could easily have given his daughter such a gift. He is listed as one of the early settlers of Westfield. A Revolutionary Map in Honeyman's History of Union County locates an Andrew Hetfield and a Smith Williams house on Springfield Road. However, this is a prepared map and not a contemporary one. A similar map in Hoffman's book

is titled "The Old Towne 1740 - 1800" and Hoffman gives the date of erection as about 1790. In 1814 Smith Williams and wife Mary sold to the widow Rachel Clark. The property remained in the hands of various members of the Clark family until 1922. One of these Clarks was Ephraim who owned the property from 1828 until he died in 1868. Clayton lists him as a prominent tanner and currier. The old tanning vats were uncovered when Route 29 was built several years ago.

The house is an exceptionally well built one. It has a twenty inch foundation wall. The cellar beams are four by eight with the main beam ten by ten. The frame is of oak four by four brick lined. Before the house was repaired there was a solid cyprus gutter on it; this was made of a twelve by twelve timber cut to a depth of about five inches at the center with a fall of about one inch at the outlets. When this was taken down the owner says it weighed about 3000 pounds. The house originally was shingled with twelve by thirty-six inch shingles. The floors are ten inch white pine boards with double grooves. There is an unusual stairway of mahogany. It is apparent from the construction that the house originally had a one story wing on the south elevation which was raised about 1850 to the height of the main house.

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